REMARKS

The Final Office Action mailed September 14, 2009 has been carefully considered. Within the Office Action claims 1-2 and 4-5 have been rejected and claims 3 and 6-13 have been allowed. The Examiner is thanked for the kind allowance of claims 3 and 6-13. The un-allowed claims have been canceled so that this application may be put in condition for allowance. Applicants reserve the right to file additional applications to pursue the unallowed claims at a later date.

Applicant's Comments On Reasons For Allowance

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowance of claims 3 and 6-13. Applicants respectfully urge that additional and/or alternative reasons for allowance may exist apart from the arguments or remarks made by the Examiner and/or the Applicants during the prosecution of the above captioned case and thus are not limited to those statements. These reasons may each be independently sufficient to establish the patentability of one or more of claims 3 and 6-13.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to introduce, articulate, or otherwise comment on any such additional reasons for allowance as may be appropriate in any future proceedings concerning the one or more claimed embodiments.

Conclusion

It is believed that this reply places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this reply is earnestly solicited.

Docket No.: UF-P276USw (432633-050)

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-3557.

Respectfully submitted, NIXON PEABODY LLP

Dated: November 4, 2009

/david b. ritchie/ David B. Ritchie Reg. No. 31,562

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